The Meskwakis who visited a bear in his den

There are phonemically eight vowels in Meskwaki: i, i', e, e', a, a', o, o'.

There are phonemically eleven consonants in Meskwaki: p, t, č, k, s, š, h, m, n, w, y.

There are phonemically 29 consonant clusters in Meskwaki: hp, ht, hč, hk, šk, hm, hn, hw, hy, pw, tw, kw, sw, šw, mw, nw, py, ty, čy, ky, šy, my, ny, hpw, htw, hkw, škw, hp, hky.

Meskwaki papepipo is adapted to be wonderfully easy to write. It is much harder to read. Papepipo omits vowel length, the consonant “h”, and nearly all punctuation. This means that spoken Meskwaki has eight distinct vowels, but papepipo writes only four vowels; spoken Meskwaki has eleven distinct consonants, but papepipo writes only ten consonants; spoken Meskwaki has 29 distinct consonant clusters, but papepipo writes only 16 consonant clusters. As a result, there is a great deal of educated guesswork involved in transcribing papepipo into fully phonemicized words, phrases, and sentences. The edited and translated text of “The Meskwakis who visited a bear in his den” should be taken provisionally and read critically: there may be mistakes or infelicities in YB’s original papepipo, in LT’s reading of the papepipo, in LT’s choices regarding phonemicization, word breaks, and sentence breaks, and in LT’s choices regarding Meskwaki-to-English translation. Translation in particular is at the best of times an imperfect art, and in interpreting Meskwaki stories into English there is a constant struggle between the wish to give a painfully literal translation of each word and the wish to try to translate the (imagined) intended poetic and rhetorical effect of the Meskwaki language on Meskwaki ears into a similar poetic and rhetorical effect of English on English ears.

The Meskwaki of YB’s manuscript is now archaic, which makes it even more challenging to read than modern papepipo.

Some notes about fundamental features of the Meskwaki language which translate poorly into English: Meskwaki, like other members of the Algonquian language family, has animate versus inanimate gender where English has masculine versus feminine versus inanimate gender. Meskwaki distinguishes between a “proximate” (nearest/most interesting/most important/most sympathetic) third person and various “obviative” (more peripheral/less interesting/less important/less sympathetic) third persons. In Meskwaki it is obligatory to indicate the source of one’s information (direct evidence? indirect evidence? supposition? common knowledge? hearsay?) whereas in English this is optional. Complex, multi-faceted, multipartite verb stems predominate in Meskwaki to an extent...
unknown in English. (Cf. Edward Sapir’s famous observation that “single Algonkin words are like tiny imagist poems.”)

In the following text, the numbers in the left margin reflect the manuscript pages. Capital letters followed by a parenthesis mark the lines proposed by LT. A space between Meskwaki words reflects a word divider in the manuscript. Underscore (_) marks a word boundary where there was no word divider in the manuscript. Pipe (|) marks a place where the end of a word is not marked by a word divider in the manuscript but does coincide with the edge of the page in the manuscript. Double pipe (||) marks the end of a page. Plain hyphen (-) marks a preverb boundary marked by a word divider in the manuscript. Underscored hyphen (_) marks a preverb boundary not marked by a word divider in the manuscript.

These editions and translations are works in progress and minor changes can be expected in the future.

1 A) meškwahki-haki mahkwani pi-tikawa-čiki. [written as title]
   A) The Meskwakis who visited a bear in his den.

   B) e‧h=takwa‧kiniki oškinawe‧haki mahkwahi ne‧tone‧hwa‧čiki.
   B) (Two) young men who went seeking bears in the fall.

   C) e‧h=ki‧ški‧ška‧pehkateniki,
   C) There were steep cliffs,

   D) e‧h=wa‧nawa‧nakowiniki aseni. [wa‧nawa‧nakowi: <wanawakowi>]
   D) with holes in the stone.

   E) nekotah=pe‧hki=meko e‧h=aniweškaminici.
   E) (Bears) really went a lot into (one of the holes).

   F) “nahi′,_pi‧tikawa‧ta‧we,”_e‧h=iti‧wa‧či.
   F) “Hey, let’s visit them in their den!” one (of the young men) said to the other.

   G) “o‧‧ki‧h=pi‧tikawa‧pena,”_e‧h=iti‧wa‧či,
   G) “Well, we’ll visit them in their den,” the other replied,

   H) e‧h=pi‧tike‧wa‧či asenye‧ni e‧h=wa‧nakowiniči.
   H) and they went inside a hole in the stone.

   I) na‧meki| e‧h=ki‧ki‧yose‧wa‧či nano‧škwe e‧h=ki‧škapehkote‧niki.
   I) They walked around inside blindly in the dark.

   J) kapo‧twe we‧wiye‧hinikwe‧hini e‧h=mehkoče‧na‧wa‧či,
   J) At some point they stumbled across some kind of creature,

   K) e‧h=kokwe‧tena‧wa‧či.
   K) and felt it with their hands.

   L) kapo‧twe e‧h=nì‧ška‧mekowa‧či.
   L) Suddenly it growled at them.

   M) ke‧nwa‧sowe‧wani=ke‧hi=’pi=’nini. [<pi||ni>]}
M) They say it was a mountain lion.
2 A) e·h=kohka·mowa·či.
   A) They turned around and fled,
   B) peteki_e·h=a·wa·či,
   B) going back,
   C) wi·h=nowi·wa·či e·h=išite·he·wa·či.
   C) thinking to get out (of the cave).
   D) e·h=anehanemehka·wa·či we·či·pi·tike·wa·či ota·hkwe,
   D) They went on and on in the direction of where they had entered (the cave),
   E) e·h=pa·wi·mehkamowa·či we·či·pi·tike·wa·či.
   E) but they couldn’t find the place where they had entered (the cave).
   F) ke·keya·h e·h=pe·we·nemowa·či, e·h=wi·kowiwa·či.
   F) Eventually they gave up, being sleepy.
   G) meše=meko=’nah=nekotahi| e·h=nana·hišinowa·či.
   G) They lay down just anywhere
   H) e·h=nepa·wa·či.
   H) and slept.
   I) e·h=pa·wi·ke·kehke·netamowa·či na·hina·h=e·h=pehkote·nikwe·ni.
   I) They didn’t know when it was night.
   J) ’še=meko e·h=wi·kowiwa·či e·h=nana·hišinowa·či.
   J) They simply lay down when they were sleepy.
   K) to·hki·wa·či=na·hka,
   K) When they woke up again,
   L) e·h=we·pose·wa·či.
   L) they started walking.
   M) ke·keya·h=meko e·h=we·pi·mehkoče·na·wa·či mahkwahi.
   M) Eventually they began finding bears by touch.
   N) še·ški=’p=a·peh|| e·h=kokwe·tena·wa·či.
   N) They would just feel them with their hands, it’s said.
3 A) na·hka| čačawi·h e·h=mehkoče·škawa·wa·či e·h=šeššiniči.
   A) And sometimes they would brush up against bears that were lying down.
   B) ke·keya·h=meko e·h=po·ni·kosa·wa·či,
   B) Eventually they stopped being afraid of them.
   C) e·h=ki·wi·na·naksiškawa·wa·či. [na·naksiškawa: <nanaškiškawa>]
   C) They met them time and time again as they went from place to place.
   D) kapo·twe| pe·hki=meko e·h=wi·ša·pene·wa·či.
D) At some point they were really famished.

E) a·kwi=ke·h ke·ko·h=kekesiwa·čini wi·h=mi·čikwe·hiki.
E) They didn’t have anything they could eat.

F) mehta·hkwi=meko še·ški _e·h=omehte·hiwa·či.
F) They were ill-equipped, having only their bows.

G) ke·keya·h=meko pe·hki _e·h=wi·ša·pene·wa·či,
G) Eventually they were really famished,

H) ma·nenwjí ki·ši·nepa·wa·či.
H) having slept many times.

I) a·kwi=ke·h ke·ko·h takonikini na·meki.
I) There wasn’t anything inside (the cave).

J) še·ški=meko aseni e·h=ki·ki·wa·nakateniki.
J) There were only tunnels going around through the stone.

K) a·wa·či=meko e·h=pa·wi- nekotahi -mekhama·či ahki.
K) They didn’t even find any dirt anywhere.

A) še·ški=meko aseni.
A) There was nothing but stone.

B) mehteno·h=meko pi·ša·kaninekwe·hahi e·h=me·mekoče·na·wa·či.
B) They only found bats by touch time and time again.

C) na·meki e·h=pepye·hkwoč·činiči.
C) They hung in bunches inside the cave.

D) ke·keya·h=meko pe·hki _e·h=a·nemapene·wa·či.
D) Eventually they were really starving.

E) (e·h=pa·wi·wi·yo=ke·h=meko nana·ši -mekhama·či we·či·pi·tiče·kwe·hiki.)
E) (By the way, they never had found the place where they had entered (the cave).)

F) “nahi’, _pe·hki=ya·pi=ní·na=’ni e·h=a·nemapene·ya·ni,” e·h=iti·wa·či.
F) “Say, here’s the thing: for my part I’m really starving now,” one of them said to the other.

G) “o’, _ta·ni=ča·h=mö·hëi wi·h=teyakwe.
G) “Well, what will become of us?

H) a·kwi=ča·h=ke·ko·h=mi·čiyakwini.
H) We haven’t eaten anything.

I) ma·haki=ča·h=ye·toke mehteno·h amwakwe,” pi·ša·kaninekwe·hahi.
I) How about if we only ate these,” (the other said, referring to) the bats.

J) “nahi’, ki·h=köč·amwa·pena,” e·h=iyowa·či. [koč-amwa·pena: <kočanewapena.>]
J) “All right, let’s try and eat them,” they said.

K) e·h=natoče·nike·wa·či aseni·ki.
K) And they tried to find them by feel on the stone.

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A) ke-htena e·h=mehko·če·na·wa·či,

A) Sure enough, they found (some bats) by groping around

B) e·h=ša·ša·koče·na·wa·či,

B) and crushed them in their hands

C) e·h=amwa·wa·či.

C) and ate them.

D) ki·ši·te·pama·wa·či,| D) After they had had enough to eat,

E) na·hka e·h=we·pose·wa·či,| E) they set off again,

F) e·h=natone·hamowa·či we·či=pi·tike·wa·či.

F) looking for the place where they had entered (the cave).

G) e·h=pa·wi=meko -mehkamowa·či.

G) But they didn’t find it.

H) meše=meko e·h=pemí|-nana·hišinowa·či,

H) They lay down just any place along their route,

I) wi·kowiwa·čini.

I) whenever they were sleepy.

J) še·ški=meko ahpene·či e·h=ki·yose·wa·či.

J) They just walked about from place to place all the time.

K) i·ni=wi·na·pi·tikawa·wa·či,

K) And then when they entered the dens of (bears and mountain lions),

L) ke·keya·h=meko e·h=po·ni·ke·ko·he·nema·wa·či.

L) eventually they ceased to think anything of them,

M) e·h=po·ni·kosa·wa·či mahkwahi na·hka ke·nwa·sowe·wahi.

M) ceasing to fear the bears and mountain lions.

N) wa·natohka=meko="p=a·pehe e·h=kokwe·tena·wa·či e·nekihkwepe·niči.|| [e·nekihkwepe·niči: <.inekiškwitepeneči||>]

N) As if it were nothing out of the ordinary, they would just feel how big their heads were with their hands, it’s said,

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A) a·neta=pe·hki=meko e·h=mama·kitepe·niči kekye·hčawahi·nahi mahkwahi. [niči: <neči.>]

A) Some of the preeminent bears really had large heads.

B) i·nihi=na·hka pi·ša·kaninekwe·hahi, [pi·ša·kaninekwe·hahi: <.pišakanimekweai.>]

B) And as for those bats,

C) ke·keya·h=meko| pe·hki e·h=nakatama·wa·či,

C) they eventually got used to eating them
D) e·h=amwahamwa-wa·či. [amwahamwa-wa·či: <amwaamwači>]

D) and ate them time and time again.

E) mani=wi na nepi, [nepi: <n> is written oddly]

E) And as for water,

F) a·yahpi-hčina=h=ma·ne·teniwi.

F) every so often there was a lot of it.

G) a·nete=’pi nepiwiwa·či

G) Some of (the bears and mountain lions) were wet inside the cave, it’s said.

H) i·ni=ča·hi=’pi me·nowa·či.

H) So it’s said that that’s what they drank.

I) manahka=wi na| we·či wa·či e·h=wanisowa·či,

I) Over in the place where they had come from (the two young men) were missed,

J) e·h=na·natone·hoči.

J) and were searched for time and time again.

K) ke·keya·h peno·či e·h=ahkwatone·hoči.

K) Eventually they were sought far and wide.

L) e·h=pa·wi=me·mehkawoči. [wo: <o>]

L) But they weren’t found.

M) e·h=pa·wi=me·kehke·nemeči ·šawikwe·hiki.

M) And no one knew what could have become of them.

A) ki·h=me·pepo·niki,

A) After it was winter,

B) e·h=pe·we·nemowa·či we·to·škinawe·mičiki e·h=na·natone·hwa·wa·či.

B) the young men’s parents gave up searching for them.

C) “o´_nesa petoke=kohi.

C) “Well, they must have been killed.

D) o=meše=ke·h mešena·petoke,” e·h=iyowa·či. [meše=ke·h: <šeke> written over erased syllables, in ?’s hand]

D) Or perhaps they were captured,” they said.

E) e·h=pe·we·nemowa·či na·natone·hika·čiki. [čiki: <čiči>.]

E) And the searchers gave up.

F) (e·ye·hi=’yo=ke·h meso·te·we mehtose·neniwa ·mata·kwe·netaki e·h=ne·neseti·či.)

F) (By the way, this was while people everywhere enjoyed killing each other time and time again.)

G) “me·me·čiki=ča·h=meko pana·čiha·pi,” e·h=išite·he·wa·či.

G) “I’m sure they’ve been killed,” (their parents) thought.

H) e·h=pe·we·nemowa·či.
And they gave up.

It was more or less deepest winter.

And when it was March, more or less, in the spring,

they began to make lots of huts for the maple sap season, and bowls.

This was while they made them without (modern equipment).

They split basswood sticks in two and hollowed them.

Whenever they were done hollowing them,

they made a fire and burned them so that they would be smooth.

They cleaned them on the inside with fire.

Whenever they were finished,

they set them down where the trees they wanted to tap were standing.

And then they cut maple sap spouts (without modern equipment).

That is what they did, it’s said.

In all directions they made their camps in the places where they were going to make maple syrup.

Meanwhile, as for those (two) men, the ones who visited bears in their dens, it was November when they first entered (the cave).

At some point or other they woke up
C) e·h=pos·we·wa·či.|  
C) and started walking.

D) kapo·twe e·h=ne·tamowa·či e·h=wa·se·ya·pata·ne·hiniki e·ya·wa·či ota·hkwe,  
D) At some point they saw a place where there was daylight in the direction where they were heading,

E) i·tep| e·h=a·wa·či.  
E) and they went that way.

F) ke·keya·h=meko| e·h=pemo·te·wa·či e·h=čaka·nakato·hiniki.  
F) Eventually they crawled out where there was a small hole.

G) še·ški=meko e·nekinowa·či_a·wasi·me·hi e·h=inekihkwa·nakateniki.  
G) The hole was only a little bit bigger than they were.

H) e·h=pemi·kteškwe·neki ni·ka·no·ta·ta.  
H) The one who crawled through first stuck his head out.

I) kaši, pe·hki=či·h=meko e·h=ki·ša·koči·ki·ška·hkiwiniki.  
I) Why, he saw that there was a sheer cliff!

J) e·h=pa·wi=meko ke·ko·hi=ši·nahikeniki|| wi·h=no·wi·wa·či.  
J) It wasn’t in any way fit as a route for them to exit (the cave).

A) kehč·ahpemekı=meko e·h=ota·nakateniki.  
A) The hole (in the cliff) was very high up indeed.

B) na·hka awiya·toke=meko| ahpemekı e·h=anema·hkiwiniki.  
B) And the hillside continued that same way up above.

C) “e·hyi′, kana·kwa=ni·hka.  
C) “Aíee, it’s no use!

D) pe·hki·sanakikenwi kwi·yena,” e·h=ina·či owi·hka·nani ni·ka·ni·ta.  
D) It’s really tricky right here,” the one in front told his friend.

E) “šehehye′,| e·h=iyowá·či.  
E) “Oh no!” the other replied.

F) “nahi′, iše=ni·hka=meko kwa·kwa·koho·taka.| [taka]: <tani>|  
F) “Well, I might simply start shouting.

G) wanimo·či owiye·ha| ayo·hi kehčine ki·wi·hkiče,” e·h=iti·wa·či.  
G) Perhaps someone is staying near here,” (the first young man) said to the other.

H) “hawo,”| e·h=iči.  
H) [sic: <,awo>|] “All right,” (his friend) answered.

I) ni·ka·ni·ta e·h=we·pi·kwa·kwa·koho·taki,  
I) The one in front began giving shout and shout,

J) e·hpi·hči·či.  
J) at the top of his lungs.
At some point the maple syrup makers living near there heard someone shouting.

A) e·h=ki·wi·kečikečisa·wa·či.
   A) and one after the other they ran out to where they could see.

B) na·hka=ke·h=ne·kotahi e·h=tanehtawa·wa·či.|  
   B) Once again they heard (someone) somewhere.

C) ke·keya·h e·h=nana·hkoma·wa·či.
   C) Eventually they called back to (him).

D) ahkwita·hki·ki e·h=pemiha·wa·či.
   D) They went to the top of the hill.

E) kaši′, pasihkí·ki=či·h e·h=kaškehtawa·wa·či.
   E) Why, they heard his voice coming from below them on the hill.

E) kaši′, e·h=ki·ška·hkiwiniki=či·h e·h=tanwe·taminiči._  
   E) Why, they realized he was shouting from the cliff face.

F) ke·keya·h=meko e·h=ne·wa·wa·či e·h=sa·ki·kwé·šiniči na·wi·ki·ška·pehkatenwe.
   F) Eventually they saw him sticking his head out from the middle of the cliff.

G) “o′, pe·hki·nesanakišinepena,” e·h=iči·oškinawe·hani.
   G) “Well, we’re really in a tight spot,” the young man said.

H) kaši′, niye·na=či·h we·niha·wa·čini.
   H) Why, they saw it was the (young man) they had lost.

I) “če·wi·šwi·i·nah| ketawipwa,” e·h=ina·wa·či.
   I) “Are both of you there?” they asked him.

J) “ehe·he,” e·h=iči.
   J) “Yes,” he said.

K) “nahi′, ki·h=ata·hpapinenepena,”]| e·h=ineči.
   K) “Well, we’ll pull you up on a rope,” he was told.

11 A) “hawo,” e·h=iči.
   A) “All right,” he said.

B) wi·kopye·ni e·h=kahkenamowa·či._  
   B) They stripped pieces of basswood bark

C) ma·ne e·h=ma·wačiti·wa·či.
   C) and called lots of people together.

D) ki·ši|·ma·wači·wa·či,
   D) After they had assembled,

E) e·h=ni·sa·pye·namowawá·či,|  
   E) they lowered the rope.
F)  e·h=nana·hapito·či owi·yawi.
F)  (The young man) tied it around himself.

G)  ki·ši·menwapito·či owi·ya[wi], [owi·yawi: <.owiya.>]
G)  After he had tied it to himself securely,

H)  “nahi=’ni e·h=ki·ši·menwapisoyá·ni,’| e·h=iči.
H)  “All right, I’m tied securely now,” he said.

I)  e·h=ata·hpapineči kena·či.
I)  And he was slowly drawn up on the rope.

J)  i·ya·h=kehé·ahkwita·hki·ki e·h=pye·tapineči.
J)  He was drawn up to the very top of the hill.

K)  ki·ši·otehteneči,|
K)  After he had been retrieved,

L)  na·hka=kotaka e·h=pemij·sa·ki·kwe·ška·či.
L)  the other one stuck his face out in turn.

M)  na·hka=’na kotaka e·h=ni·sa·pye·namowoči, [wo: <o>]
M)  The rope was lowered to the other one in turn,

N)  e·h=nana·hapito·či owi·yawi.
N)  and he tied it around himself.

O)  ki·ši·menwapisoči,
O)  After he was tied securely,

P)  “nahi=’ni,”| e·h=iči.
P)  “All right, now!” he said.

A)  e·h=ata·hpapineči kena·či. [e·h=ata·: <.aeta>]
A)  And he was pulled up slowly with the rope.

B)  i·ya·h=e·h=pana·tesiwa·či.
B)  Up above there, (the two young men) fainted.

C)  e·h=ki·ši·otehteneči če·wi·šwi.
C)  They had both been retrieved.

D)  ki·ši· če·wi·šwi i·ya·h=otehteneči,
D)  After they were both retrieved there

E)  i·ni e·h=a·nawihto·wa·či wi·h=pemose·wa·či,
E)  they were unable to walk

F)  na·hka wi·h=kanawiwa·či e·h=pa·wi·kaškihto·wa·či.
F)  and they couldn’t manage to speak.

G)  e·h=nenekapisoči.|    
G)  They were shaking all over.
H) e·h=awato·meči.
H) And they were carried home on (the men’s) backs.
I) i·ya·h=pye·neči,
I) When they were brought there,
J) e·h=ašikawoči mato·teše·wika·ni. [wo: <o>]
J) a sweatlodge was built for them.
K) aseny·hi e·h=pasa·pehkesamawoči. [wo: <o>]
K) Stones were heated for them.
L) ki·ši=meko -meškwano·soniči,
L) After (the stones) were red-hot,
M) e·h=pi·tikaneči,
M) (the two young men) were brought inside,
N) e·h=wi·ke·či·ka·wi·hkawoči e·h=pi·tikaneči.| [kawo: <|kao>, with <|ka> written over erased syllable, in YB’s hand?]
N) and they were dealt with carefully when they were brought inside.
O) e·h=we·pi·si·kenahamawoči. [wo: <o>]
O) Water was poured on (the stones) for them.
P) ki·ši·a·hte·niči,
P) After (the stones) had cooled,
Q) e·h=nowiweneči.
Q) they were taken out.
R) nye·wokoní| a·hpene·we i·ni_e·to·tawoči.| [nye·wo: <.nyeo>; woči: <woči>]
R) For four days that was all that was done to them.

**A)** nye·wo·nameki i·ni=’pi_ača·hmeko e·h=ki·ši·mi·škawesiwa·či na·hka.| [wo: <o>]
A) Only after the fourth day did they have their strength back again, it’s said.
B) i·ni=’pi e·h=we·pi·a·čiha·čimowa·či e·šahischawiwa·či.
B) Then, they say, they began to relate what had happened to them.
C) na·meki e·h=ki·wita·wa·či nehki_e·ne·towa·či.| C) They were inside (the cave) for the whole time they were away.
D) asa·mi·kenwe·ši e·h=pa·wil·ne·wa·wa·či owi·či·nego·te·wa·wahi. [kenwe·ši: <kewedi>]
D) They hadn’t seen their fellow humans in far too long.
E) na·hka wa·se·ya·niki kenwe·ši e·h=pa·wi·ne·tamowa·či.
E) And they hadn’t seen daylight in a long time.
F) na·hka| e·ši·wi·seniwa·či e·h=pa·wi·iši·wi·seniwa·či.| F) And they didn’t eat the way they ate.
G) i·ni_we·či·a·nawihto·wa·či na·hina·h e·h=ne·wa·wa·či neno·te·wahi| na·hka. [wahi| na·hka: <wiinapa>]
G) That is why they couldn’t function at the time when they saw humans again.

H) pe-hki=’pi=meko pehki-ni-išinameške-waki.||
H) And their skin was really different, it’s said.

15 A) wa-piwa-pinameške-waki.
A) They had chalk-white skin.

B) či-pači-payina-kosiwaki.
B) They looked like corpses.

C) e-h=a-hpeči-apano-sowa-či na-meki.
C) They had been warm all the time inside (the cave).

D) a’kwì=’pi| nana-ši_nepačiwa-čini.
D) They never got cold, it’s said.

E) na-meki e-h=apane-htaminiči mahkwahi.
E) The bears warmed up (the cave) with their breath.

F) nye-wi-ki-šeswe e-h=pa-wi|ne-tamowa-či wa-se ya-niki.
F) For four months (the two young men) hadn’t seen daylight.

G) šeški=meko nano-škwe e-h=ki-wi-kakano-neti-wa-či.
G) They did nothing but go around talking to each other at random.

H) mehta-hkwi=meko pi-ša-kaninekwe-hahi e-h=amwahamwa-wa-či.
H) They ate bats time and time again without any cooking, or any sauce.

I) pe-hki=’pi ma-ne-niwahi mahkwahi na-hka ke-nwa-sowe-wahi.
I) And the bears and mountain lions were really numerous, it’s said.

J) ke-keya-hi=’pi| po-ni-kose-waki,
J) Eventually they no longer feared them, it’s said,

K) e-h=kokwe-tena-va-či.
K) when they felt them with their hands.

L) kehkinawa-či=meko e-h=ki-škitiye-niči pe-ye-hahi. [<ye|ni>]
L) The bears could be told by their cut-off tails.

16 A) ke-nwa-sowe-wahi e-h=kenwaneowe-či.
A) The mountain lions had long tails.

B) aškiča-hi=’pi i-nihi ke-nwa-sowe-wahi niška-meko-ki=’pi=mek=a-pehe| e-h=kotena-wa-či.
B) At first, they say, those mountain lions would growl at (the young men) when they felt them with their hands.

C) kapotwe=’pi po-ni-niška-meko-ki,
C) At some point, it’s said, they ceased to growl at them,

D) e-h=nakate-nemekowa-či.
D) having gotten used to them.
E) na·hka e·h=nepa·wa·či.
E) And (the young men) slept.

F) ke·keya·h=meko po·ni|·a·hkwa·me·waki. [po·ni: <.pini>]
F) Eventually they stopped being on their guard.

G) wa·natohka=′p=a·pehe e·h=nepa·wa·či.| 
G) They would sleep as if nothing were amiss, it’s said.

H) meše·na·hina·h tanwe·we·kome·niwahī na·hka čačawi·h e·h=šekišinoa·či.
H) And sometimes the other sleepers would be snoring away not far off as (the young men) lay there.

I) wa·natohka e·h=pemwe·we·šiniči.
I) (The bears and mountain lions) went past paying no attention.

J) ma·hahī=mat=a·peh pana·ša·hahi kehči·wa·wi·škwe·we·kiheti·niwahī e·h=ma·mi·ka·ti·niči.
J) On the other hand, the cubs would make each other scream loudly over and over again when they fought, time and time again.

K) aškiča·h=′p=se·kise·kimeko·ki i·nihi.
K) It growled loudly at them every time.

L) na·hka i·nihi_ke·nwa·sowe·wahi ki·hpene| e·h=ketoniči,
A) And if those mountain lions uttered,

B) wi·škwe·we·kesiniwahī=′pi.
B) they yowled, it’s said.

C) e·tašiniči=meko e·h=ketoniči.| 
C) As many of them as there were would make that sound.

D) ki·wi·′na·nakateniki| e·h=nešiwišimoniči].
D) All around the cave they had terrifying voices.

E) aškiča·h=′p=se·kise·kimeko·ki i·nihi.
E) At first those (animals) frightened (the young men) again and again, it’s said.

F) kapo·twe=′pi nakate·neme·waki.| 
F) But at some point they got used to them, it’s said.

G) i·ni_e·h=išawiniči| e·h=wa·wi·škwe·we·kesiniči.| 
G) (The bears and mountain lions) did that when they screamed over and over again.

H) nekoti=ča·hi=′pi=meko| pe·hki nasata·wesiniwani. 
H) And one of (the mountain lions) was really unfriendly, it’s said.

I) ahpene·či=′pi=meko wi·šiki·ni·ška·meko·ki.
I) It growled loudly at them every time.

J) a·kwi=′pi nana·ši| kehčine_pye·notawa·wa·čini.
J) They never went near it.

K) mehto·či=′pi=meko aškote·wahtakawe·niwani owi·sa·ki.| [<ta||ka>]
K) It had a coat like fire on its fur, it’s said.
A) They would always see it, it’s said.

B) kenwinawe·niwani=’pi e·h=kenoče·niči.

B) It had a long body when it lengthened out.

C) e·h=nīška·mekowa·či.

C) And it growled at them.

D) e·škami=’pi=mek=a·pehe iši-aškote·wa·pame·waki.

D) Gradually they would see it as a streak of fire, it’s said.

E) a·kwı=wi·na=’pi wa·wosa·h mawinanekowa·čini.

E) Surprisingly, it didn’t attack them.

F) a·yaškači=ke·hi=’pi=meko ne·we·waki| i·nini.

F) They saw it once in a while, it’s said.

G) i·nini=’pi=mehteno·h ne·sata·wineniwičini.

G) That was the only one that was bad-tempered, it’s said.

H) i·ni=’pi| e·nahina·čimowa·či| mahkwahi e·h=owi·kiniči| pi·tikawa·čiki,

H) That is what the ones who visited bears in their home related, it’s said.

I) ki·wa·ni·čiki na·meki=tasi.

I) the ones who got lost inside (a cave).

J) ke·keya·h=meko e·h=mehtanasite·wa·či,

J) Eventually they were barefoot,

K) e·h=ča·keškamowa·či omahkese·hwa·wani. [<wa||wani.>]

K) having worn out their moccasins.

19 A) asenı·ki e·h=ki·yose·wa·či ahpene·či,

A) They walked about on stone all the time.

B) nehki i·nah=ki·wita·wa·či.

B) for as long as they stayed there.

C) ta·tepi=ča·hi=’nahi wi·h=otenamowa·či kotakani wi·h=pesehkamowa·či.| [ta·tepi: <.|tapepi>]

C) Where could they get other (moccasins) to wear?

D) ke·keya·h omatete·hwa·wani| e·h=wi·wi·wika·pisowa·či.| [šanasite: <šanačite>; <wo: <o>]

D) Eventually they wrapped up their feet with their leggins.

E) e·h=ka·šanasite·wose·wa·či.| [šanasite:: <šanačite>; <wo: <o>]

E) Their feet got sore when they walked.

F) i·ni=ča·hi=’pi e·h=te·pahkwı|-nowi·wa·či i·nini| e·h=wi·wika·pisowa·či.

F) Right up until the time when they exited (the cave) they wrapped their feet in those (rags).

G) i·ni_e·šawiwa·či,

G) That is what happened to them.

H) e·nahina·čimowa·či e·h=a·toha·totamowa·či.
H) and what they related when they told about it time and time again.

I) i·ni=mani e·hkwa·čimo·mikahki| a·čimo·ni mahkwahi| e·taši·hkawa·čiki.| no·hkiha·čiki.||

I) Now that is the end of the story about the ones who dealt with bears, who killed them easily.